That Which is Claimed:

1. A method of the present invention for installing a software component on a computing device comprising:

5   monitoring usage of the computing device;

determining a need for a software component; and

initiating installation of the software component during a time period based on the activity level of the computing device.

10   2. The method of claim 1 wherein the monitoring usage of the computing device comprises one or more of the following:

monitoring user activity;

monitoring usage of a processor;

monitoring usage of a storage medium;

15   monitoring usage of a memory; and/or

monitoring usage of a network.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the monitoring usage of the computing device comprises monitoring usage of the processor and the method comprises initiating installation of

20   the software component during a time period based on the activity level of the processor.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the computing device is a recipient computing device on a network connected to a donor computing device comprising files for installation and

the method comprises: monitoring usage of the network connection and initiating transfer of files from the donor computing device to the recipient computing device during a time period based on the level of network activity.

5   5.   The method of claim 4 wherein the donor computing device comprises a remote server.

     6.   The method of claim 5 further comprising monitoring the transfer process, and reducing the activity level of the transfer process based on the level of other activity on the

10   network connection.

     7.   The method of claim 6 wherein the transfer process is halted.

     8.   The method of claim 7 further comprising resuming the transfer and continuing

15   the transfer until a complete file for installation has been transferred to the recipient computing device.

     9.   The method of claim 5 further comprising installing the installation files on the recipient computing device.

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     10.   The method of claim 8 wherein the installing comprises monitoring usage of the processor, and installing based on the activity level of the processor.

11.   A computer-readable medium on which is encoded program code, the program

code comprising:

program code for monitoring usage of a component of a computing device;

program code for determining a need for a software component on the computing device;

5   and program code initiating installation of the software component during a time period

based on the activity level of the component of the computing device.

12.   The computer readable medium of claim 11 wherein the component of the

computing device comprises one or more of the following: user activity; a processor; memory; a

10   storage medium; and/or a network.

13.   The computer-readable medium of claim 12 wherein the computing device is

networked and the medium further comprises program code for monitoring network activity and

program code for initiating installation of the software component based on the level of network

15   activity.

14.   The computer-readable medium of claim 12 wherein the program code for

initiating installation comprises program code for downloading the update from a remote server.

20   15.   The computer-readable medium of claim 14 further comprising program code for

monitoring the downloading process, and code for reducing the level of activity of the

downloading process based on the level of network activity.

16.   The computer-readable medium of claim 15 further comprising program code for resuming the download and continuing the download until a complete installation file has been obtained.

5   17.   The computer-readable medium of claim 15 further comprising program code for installing the installation file.

18.   The computer-readable medium of claim 17 wherein the program code for installing comprises program code for monitoring usage of the processor and computer program

10   code for installing based on the activity level of the processor.